Voluntary Organisations, Institutions and Individuals both tribal and non-tribal, who are engaged in the preservation of Tribal and Folk Art and Culture and provided financial assistance. In the current financial year *i.e.* 2005-06, a provision of Rs. 1.70 crore has been made for this scheme.

**Development of NER**

3257. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a national agenda for development of the NE Region;

(b) if so, Government's action plan to secure speedy development of the region, specially for development of rural infrastructure and generation of employment;

(c) whether any help from the foreign agencies has also been sought in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) To accelerate development in the North Eastern Region, Prime Minister had announced "New Initiaives for North Eastern Region" in 1996 which, *inter alia*, stipulated that at least 10% of the plan budget of the Central Ministries/Departments (except those exempted), would be earmarked and spent for the development of the North Eastern States and the unspent balance of the earmarked 10% would be credited to a Non-Lapsable Fund, specially created for the North Eastern Region for funding critical developmental projects. A separate Department for the development of North Eastern Region was created which was subsequently upgraded to a Ministry. The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region sanctions and funds projects for the development of socio-economic infrastructure on regular basis. In addition, North Eastern Council has been restrcutured and made a Regional Planning Body. The NEC has been assigned the task of preparing a Vision Document-2020 for the development of NE Region by

taking into account the aspiration of the people of the North Eastern Region and the resource pontenial of the Region for the development of infrastructure and generation of employment.

(c) and (d) In order to augment the availability of resources and to bring in improved technology for the development of infrastructure, the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has taken the initiative for taking up externally aided projects in six Core Sectors which include Road Network, Urban Area Development, Trade & Development, Water Resource Management, Tourism Infrastructure Development and Energy with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank/World Bank. Technical Assistance of $ 0.80 million and $ 2.00 million has been sanctioned by the ADB for the two projects of Road Network and Urban Development respectively and the preliminary studies for both these projects have since been commenced.

**Funds for NER from non-lapsable pool**

3258. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of allocation of funds to the North-Eastern States from the non-lapsable pool of resources;

(b) the amount sanctioned to the different States of NER from NLCPR in the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) whether the States have spent the sanctioned funds and submitted utilisation certificates in time; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to mobilise more funds for the States in the year 2005-06 under the head NLCPR?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) was created to sanction and fund projects for the development of socio-economic infrastructure in the North Eastern Region in accordance with the guidelines framed for this purpose. Accordingly, State Governments of the NE Region have to submit a prioritized list of such projects on yearly basis. An inter-ministerial NLCPR Committee screens these projects for detailed examination and sanction. The basis for selection of projects and allocation of funds for implementation of such